Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 00549 241633Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00
PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00 SP-02 /074 W
----------119942 241653Z /42
O 241705Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9680
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 0549

BRUSSELS FOR USEC LABOR ATTACHE

E.O. 11652:LGDS
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, TS
SUBJ: MEANY CABLE TO PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA

REF: BRUSSELS 1396

1. SHORTLY PRIOR TO RECEIPT REFTEL, UGTT LEADER HABIB ACHOUR CALLED EMBASSY TO READ MEANY CABLE AND INFORM US THAT HE WAS CALLING PRESS CONFERENCE AT 1600 LOCAL TODAY, JAN. 24. ICFTU SECGEN KERSTEN, WHO STILL IN TUNIS, WILL PRESUMABLY PARTICIPATE IN PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. IT IS LIKELY THAT ACHOUR WILL MAKE USE OF MEANY TELEGRAM AT PRESS CONFERENCE. UGTT REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ALLEGED TO US VARIOUS ATTACKS ON LOCAL UGTT HEADQUARTERS. IT IS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT SOME ATTACKS HAVE TAKENPLACE, BUT AT THIS POINT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PROVE THAT "POLITICAL PARTY RE-PRESENTATIVES" ARE RESPONSIBLE. GOVERNMENT PRESS WILL, NO DOUBT, CLAIM THAT TRADE UNION MEMBERS ENRAGED AT UGTT POLICIES ARE RESPONSIBLE. THIS IS MURKY AREA INDEED, SINCE TRADITIONALLY SAME INDIVIDUALS CAN BE REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH UNION AND PARTY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 00549 241633Z

3. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, WE SEE SITUATION ABOUT AS FOLLOWS: PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, LED BY PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA, HAS LAID DOWN DIRECT CHALLENGE TO UNIONS; MOST IMPORTANTLY COMMITTEE WAS PUBLICLY BACKED BY PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA (TUNIS 518). UGTT HAS ANNOUNCED GENERAL STRIKE IN RESPONSE, LEAVING TIMING UP TO UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. STRIKE WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

IS APPARENTLY PLANNED, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW NATION-
WIDE STRIKE COULD BE SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZED IN SUCH A SHORT
TIME. UGTT SECGEN ACHOUR MAY HAVE PAINTED HIMSELF INTO A CORNER.
GOVERNMENT NOW HOLDING MOST OF THE CARDS, AND APPARENTLY FAIRLY
CONFIDENT IT CAN CONTAIN THE SITUATION.

4. BELIEVE BEST POSTURE FOR USG AT THIS TIME IS TOTAL
NON-INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL SQUABBLE IN WHICH FACTS ARE NOT
CLEAR AND POSSIBILITY OF EMOTIONAL OR IRRATIONAL ACTIONS
OR STATEMENTS IS CONSIDERABLE.
MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TUNIS00549
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780035-0772
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780127/aaaaawnl.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1ad9a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 1396
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3720478
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEANY CABLE TO PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, TS, (BOURGUIBA, HABIB), (MEANY, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1ad9a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014